

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 canceled.

44. (previously presented) A method of fabricating a ferromagnetic plate for a magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame comprising the steps of:

(a) cutting a starting plate having oppositely directed major surfaces and a thickness between such surfaces into strips, each of said cut strips having a width greater than the thickness of the starting plate and equal to a thickness of the ferromagnetic plate to be fabricated, whereby each of the cut strips have faces which originally constituted parts of the major surfaces of the starting plate;

(b) stacking the strips to form the ferromagnetic plate so that the faces of the strips abut one another; and

(c) forming at least a portion of the magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame with the ferromagnetic plate.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein said cutting step further comprises cutting the starting plate into strips having a width of approximately 13 or more inches.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein said cutting step comprises cutting a starting plate having a thickness of approximately 9 or more inches.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 44 further comprising permanently joining said stacked strips together using fasteners.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 44 further comprising welding said stacked strips together.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein said stacking step further comprises orienting the strips such that flux passing between the strips is minimal.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein orienting comprises arranging the strips such that each strip includes a long axis that extends along a direction parallel to the ferromagnetic plate's magnetic flux lines.

51. (canceled)

52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)

54. (canceled)

55. (canceled)

56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 50 further comprising assembling a plurality of the ferromagnetic plates to form a pole support on the magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame such that the long axes of the strips extend between connecting elements of the pole support.

58. (currently amended) The method of claim 50 further comprising assembling a plurality of the ferromagnetic plates to form a connecting element of the magnetic resonance scanner magnet frame such that the long axes of the strips extend between pole supports of the connecting element.